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The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We wish to express to you our support for the immediate release and full pardon of former Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich. To date, Mr. Blagojevich has served 7 years and 3 months. In 2011, he was sentenced to 14 years.


We also understand the power to grant such requests is one of the most profound authorities given to the President of the United States. It allows you as the President to offer people a second chance and to correct injustices within our judicial system. And in this particular case, we agree with your assessment that Mr. Blagojevich's sentence of 14 years was both unfair and unnecessary.


While Governor of Illinois, no one can argue with the many successes of the Blagojevich administration. Under his leadership, every child had healthcare; every uninsured woman had access to free breast and cervical cancer screenings and cancer treatment if they couldn't afford it; every senior citizen and disabled person had free public transportation; and every 3 and 4-year old had the opportunity to go to preschool. And under his program to reduce recidivism and improve public safety, inmates had better access to education, job training, substance abuse treatment and counseling services, which led to the lowest conviction rate among parolees in Illinois history.

Rod Blagojevich was a Governor that cared for the people in the State of Illinois. He ensured the good neighbor policy extended to all. We stand with his family as they seek a full pardon for a father and husband that has served most of a sentence that was far longer than the offense deserved.

In closing, we'd also like to take this opportunity and applaud your efforts and that of the United States Congress to reform our broken criminal justice system. The discussion is long overdue and such measures will go a long way and bring tremendous relief to many people in the African American community, indeed all communities, who are imprisoned – especially for their families who suffer at home.

Sincerely,


Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr.
Founder & President
Rainbow PUSH Coalition


Jesse Jackson, Jr.
Former Member of Congress

Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr., *Founder & President*
Martin L. King, *Chairman*
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